

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND

A two-day, apparently spirited session of parliament late last week demonstrated that the Polish Government still has not found a sure path out of the current crisis. [redacted]

Premier Pinkowski, who delivered the principal address at the meeting, attempted to portray the government as acting purposefully and in good faith. He cited the ways in which the regime has honored the strike settlement agreements of last August and how it is cutting back on expenditures to make more funds available for consumption. The Premier also reviewed the progress of various commissions in drawing up social and economic reform programs and assured his listeners that incompetent and corrupt officials are being weeded out. [redacted]

Pinkowski, however, warned that "we are threatened with chaos, with all the social and political consequences it entails." He was especially concerned about continuing threats of strikes, complaining bitterly about "the lowering of discipline, bordering at times on impermissible anarchy." The parliament largely shared this concern, noting in its final resolution that "in the present circumstances, bringing more--even well-grounded--pay and social postulates can only worsen the situation and postpone delivery from the crisis." [redacted]

A Catholic member of parliament suggested that finding a way out of the crisis would not be possible without a Polish "historical compromise" between the three main forces "which count today in the life of our nation"-- the Communist party, the Church, and the unions. The regime apparently agreed in part, as demonstrated by its highly unusual step at the session of asking a group of Catholic deputies to join the government and appointing one as a deputy premier. [redacted]

The regime probably appreciates that such steps are risky, raising as they do basic questions about Moscow's level of tolerance over power sharing in a Communist state. As Pinkowski reminded the parliament, "only a socialist

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